

MEL

I knew not, till I met
My friends, at Ceres' now deserted feat. *Dryden.*
Not look back to see,
When what we love we never must meet again. *Dryden.*
3. To close one with another.
The nearer you come to the end of the lake, the moun-
tains on each side grow higher, till at last they meet. *Addison.*
4. To find; to be treated with; to light on.
Had I a hundred mouths, a hundred tongues,
I could not half those horrid crimes repeat,
Nor half the punishments those crimes have met. *Dryden.*
Of vice or virtue, whether blest or curst,
Which meets contempt, or which compassion first. *Pope.*
To me no greater joy,
Than that your labours meet a prosperous end. *Granville.*
5. To assemble from different parts.
Their choice nobility and flower
Met from all parts to solemnize this feast. *Milton.*
TO MEET, *v. n.*
1. To encounter; to close face to face.
2. To encounter in hostility.
3. To assemble; to come together.
They appointed a day to meet in together. *2 Mac. xiv. 21.*
The materials of that building happily met together, and
very fortunately ranged themselves into that delicate order,
that it must be a very great chance that parts them. *Tillotson.*
4. To MEET with. To light on; to find.
When he cometh to experience of service abroad, he maketh
as worthy a soldier as any nation he meeteth with. *Spenser.*
We met with many things worthy of observation. *Bacon.*
A little sun you mourn, while most have met
With twice the loss, and by as vile a cheat. *Creech.*
Hercules' meeting with pleasure and virtue, was invented by
Prodicus, who lived before Socrates. *Addison.*
What a majesty and force does one meet with in these short
inscriptions: are not you amazed to see so much history gar-
thered into so small a compass? *Addison on ancient Medals.*
5. To MEET with. To join.
Falls that at that oak shall meet with us. *Shakespeare.*
6. To MEET with. To encounter; to engage.
He, that hath suffered this disordered spring,
Hath now himself met with the fall of leaf. *Shakespeare.*
1. Gloomy; dismal.
Royal mistress,
Prepare to meet with more than brutal fury
From the fierce prince. *Rome's Ambitious Step-mother.*
7. A latinism. To obviate; occur to objects.
Before I proceed farther, it is good to meet with an objec-
tion, which if not removed, the conclusion of experience
from the time past to the present will not be found. *Bacon.*
8. To advance half way.
He yields himself to the man of business with reluctance,
but offers himself to the visits of a friend with facility, and
all the meeting readiness of desire. *South.*
Our meeting hearts
Contented soon, and marriage made us one. *Rew.*
9. To unite; to join: as, these rivers meet at such a place and
join.
MEETERS, *n. f.* [from meet.] One that accosts another.
There are beside
Lascivious meeters, to whose venom'd sound
The open ear of youth doth always listen. *Shakespeare.*
MEETING, *n. f.* [from meet.]
1. An assembly; a convention.
If the fathers and husbands of those, whose relief this
your meeting intends, were of the household of faith, then
their relicts and children ought not to be strangers to the
good that is done in it, if they want it. *Sprat's Sermons.*
Since the ladies have been left out of all meetings except
parties at play, our conversation hath degenerated. *Swift.*
2. A congress.
Let's be revenged on him; let's appoint him a meeting,
and lead him on with a fine baited delay. *Shakespeare.*
3. A conventicle; an assembly of dissenters.
4. A conflux: as, the meeting of two rivers.
MEETING-HOUSE, *n. f.* [meeting and house.] Place where Dis-
senters assemble to worship.
His heart misgave him that the churches were so many
meeting-houses; but I soon made him easy. *Addison.*
MEETLY, [from the adjective.] Fitly; properly.
MEETNESS, *n. f.* [from meet.] Fitness; propriety.
MEGRIM, *n. f.* [from Hemigrany, migrain, megrim, *ἡμικρανία*.]
Disorder of the head.
In every megrim or vertigo there is an obtenebation joined
with a semblance of turning round. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*
There green'd in shades from day's detested glare,
Spleen lights for ever on her pensive bed,
Pain at her side, and megrim at her head. *Pope.*
TO MEINE, *v. a.* To mingle.
MEINY, *n. f.* [menig, Saxon. See MANY. *Mesnie, Fr.*]
A retinue; domestick servants.
They summon'd up their meiny; Rait took horse;
Commanded me to follow, and attend. *Shakespeare.*

MEL

MELANCHOLY, *n. f.* [from *μέλαγχολος* and *χολή*.] Such meli-
chines as are supposed particularly to purge off black choler.
MELANCHOLICK, *adj.* [from *melancholy*.] Disordered with
melancholy; fanciful; hypochondriacal; gloomy.
The king found himself in the head of his army, after so
many accidents and melancholick perplexities. *Clarendon.*
If he be mad, or angry, or melancholick, or spitefully, he
will paint whatever is proportionable to any one. *Dryden.*
The commentators on old Ari-
Stotle, 'tis urg'd, in judgment vary:
They to their own conceits have brought
The image of his general thought:
Just as the melancholick eye
Sees fleets and armies in the sky. *Prior.*
MELANCHOLY, *n. f.* [from *melancholia*, *Fr.* from *μέλαγχολος* and *χολή*.]
1. A disease, supposed to proceed from a redundancy of black
bile; but it is better known to arise from too heavy and too
viscid blood: its cure is in evacuation, nervous medicines,
and powerful stimuli. *Quincy.*
2. A kind of madness, in which the mind is always fixed
on one object.
I have neither the scholar's melancholy, which is emulation;
nor the musician's, which is fantastical; nor the courtier's,
which is proud; nor the soldier's, which is ambitious; nor
the lawyer's, which is politic; nor the lady's, which is
nice; nor the lover's, which is all these; but it is a melan-
choly of mine own, compounded of many simples, extracted
from many objects, and indeed, the sundry contemplation
of my travels, in which my often rumination wraps me in a
most humorous sadness. *Shakespeare. As you like it.*
3. A gloomy, pensive, discontented temper.
He protested unto them, that he had only been to seek so-
litary places by an extreme melancholy that had possessed him.
Sidney, b. ii.
All these gifts come from him; and if we murmur here,
we may at the next melancholy be troubled that God did not
make us angels. *Taylor's holy Living.*
This melancholy flatters, but unmans you;
What is it else but penury of soul,
A lazy frost, a numbness of the mind? *Dryden.*
MELANCHOLY, *adj.* [from *melancholique*, French.]
1. Gloomy; dismal.
Think of all our miseries
But as some melancholy dream, which has awak'd us
To the renewing of our joys. *Denham's Sephy.*
If in the melancholy shades below,
The flames of friends and lovers cease to glow;
Yet mine shall sacred last, mine undecay'd,
Burn on through death, and animate my shade. *Pope.*
2. Diseased with melancholy; fanciful; habitually dejected.
How now, sweet Frank; art thou melancholy. *Shakespeare.*
He observes Lamech more melancholy than usual, and ima-
gines it to be from a suspicion he has of his wife Adah,
whom he loved. *Locke.*
MELICERIS, *n. f.* [from *μελικερύς*.]
Meliceris is a tumour inclosed in a cystis, and consisting
of matter like honey: it gathers without pain, and gives way
to pressure, but returns again. If the matter forming it
resembles milk curds, the tumour is called atheroma; if like
honey, meliceris; and if composed of fat, or a fatty sub-
stance, steatomata. *Sharp's Surgery.*
MELILOT, *n. f.* [from *melilot*, *Fr.* *melilotus*, Latin.] A plant.
The melilot hath a papilionaceous flower, out of whose
empanement arises the pointal, which afterward becomes a
naked capsule, that is, not hid in the empanement, as in tre-
foil, pregnant with one or two roundish seeds: the leaves
grow by threes on the foot-stalks, and the flowers are pro-
duced in a spike. *Miller.*
TO MELIORATE, *v. a.* [from *melior*, *Fr.* from *melior*.] To bet-
ter; to improve.
Grafting meliorates the fruit; for that the nourishment is
better prepared in the stock than in the crude earth. *Bacon.*
But when we graft, or buds inoculate,
Nature by art we nobly meliorate.
A man ought by no means to think, that he should be able
so much as to alter or meliorate the humour of an ungrateful
perfon by any acts of kindness. *Saunders's Sermons.*
Castration serves to meliorate the flesh of those beasts that
suffer it. *Graunt.*
Much labour is requir'd in trees.
Well must the ground be digg'd, and better dress'd,
New soil to make, and meliorate the rest. *Dryden's Virg.*
MELIORATION, *n. f.* [from *melior*, *Fr.* from *melior*.] Im-
provement; act of bettering.
For the melioration of musick there is yet much left, in
this point of exquisite comforts, to try.
MELIORITY, *n. f.* [from *melior*.] State of being better.
Men incline unto them which are softest, and least in their
way, in despite of them that hold them hardest to it; so that
this colour of meliority and pre-eminence is a sign of weak-
ness. *Bacon's Collection of Good and Evil.*

MEL

The order and beauty of the inanimate parts of the world,
the discernable ends of them, the melody above what was
necessary to be, do evince, by a reflex argument, that it is
the workmanship not of blind mechanism, but of an intelli-
gent and wisest agent. *Bentley.*
TO MELL, *v. n.* [from *meller*, *Fr.*] To mix; to meddle.
Obsolete.
With fathers sits not with such things to mell. *Spenser.*
Here is a great deal of good matter
Lost for lack of telling.
Now I see thou dost but clutter,
Harm may come of melling. *Spenser's Pastorals.*
MELLI-FEROUS, *adj.* Productive of honey.
MELLI-FICATION, *n. f.* [from *mellifico*, Latin.] The art or practice
of making honey; production of honey.
In judging of the constitution of the air, many things be-
sides the weather ought to be observed: in some countries,
the silence of grasshoppers, and want of mellification in bees.
Arbutnot on Air.
MELLI-FUENCE, *n. f.* [from *mell* and *fluere*, Latin.] A honied flow;
a flow of sweetness.
MELLI-FUENT, *adj.* [from *mell* and *fluere*, Latin.] Flowing with
MELLI-FUOUS, *adj.* honey; flowing with sweetness.
A mellifluous voice, as I am a true knight. *Shakespeare.*
As all those things which are most mellifluous are soonest
changed into choler and bitterness, so are our vanities and
pleasures converted into the bitterest sorrows and repentances.
Raleigh's Hist. of the World.
Innumerable songsters, in the freshening shade
Of new-sprung leaves, their modulations mix
Mellifluous. *Thomson's Spring, l. 605.*
MELLOW, *adj.* [from *mealla*, soft, Saxon; *Stinner*: more nearly
from *melis*, melle, mallow, mellow; though *r* is indeed easily
changed into *l* in common speech.]
1. Soft with ripeness; full ripe.
A storm, or robbery, call it what you will,
Shook down my mellow hangings, nay, my leaves. *Shak.*
An apple in my hand works different effects upon my
senses: my eye tells me it is green; my nose, that it hath a
mellow scent; and my taste, that it is sweet. *Digby.*
A little longer,
And nature drops him down without your sin,
Like mellow fruit, without a winter storm. *Dryden.*
2. Soft in sound.
Of seven smooth joints a mellow pipe I have,
Which with his dying breath Dametas gave. *Dryden.*
3. Soft; unctuous.
Camomile flieth with mellow grounds fit for wheat. *Bacon.*
4. Drunk; melted down with drink.
Greedy of physicians frequent fees,
From female mellow praise he takes degrees. *Recommon.*
In all thy humours, whether grave or mellow,
Thou'rt such a testy, touchy, pleasant fellow;
Hast so much wit, and mirth, and spleen about thee,
There is no living with thee, nor without thee. *Addison.*
TO MELLOW, *v. a.* [from the noun.]
1. To ripen; to mature; to be ripened; to ripen by age.
Lord Aubrey Vere
Was done to death, and more than so, my father;
Even in the downfall of his mellow'd years. *Shakespeare.*
The royal tree hath left its royal fruit,
Which mellow'd by the stealing hours of time,
Will well become the feat of majesty. *Shakespeare. Rich. III.*
On foreign mountains may the sun refine
The grape's soft juice, and mellow it to wine. *Addison.*
2. To soften.
They plow in the wheat stubble in December; and if the
weather prove frosty to mellow it, they do not plow it again
till April. *Mortimer's Husb.*
3. To mature to perfection.
This episode is not only now the most pleasing entertain-
ment of the *Æneis*, but was so accounted in his own age,
and before it was mellowed into that reputation which time
has given it. *Dryden.*
TO MELLOW, *v. n.* To be matured; to ripen.
Though no stone tell thee what I was, yet thou
In my grave's inside see't, what thou art now;
Yet thou'rt not yet so good, till us death lay
To ripe and mellow there, we're stubborn clay. *Donne.*
MELLOWNESS, *n. f.* [from *mellow*.]
1. Maturity of fruits; ripeness; softness by maturity.
My reason can consider greenness, mellowness, sweetness,
or coldness, singly, and without relation to any other quality
that is painted in me by the same apple. *Digby of Bodies.*
The Spring, like youth, fresh blossoms doth produce,
But Autumn makes them ripe, and fit for use:
So age a mature mellowness doth set
On the green promises of youthful heat. *Denham.*
2. Maturity; full age.
MELO-COTON, *n. f.* [from *melocotone*, Spanish; *malum cotoneum*,
Latin.] A quince. Obsolete.
In apricots, peaches, or melocotones upon a wall, the greatest

MEL

fruits are towards the bottom. *Bach.*
MELO-DIOUS, *adj.* [from *melody*.] Musical; harmonious.
Fountains! and ye that warble, as ye flow, *Milton.*
Melodious murmurs! warbling tune his praise.
And oft with holy hymns he charm'd their ears;
A musick more melodious than the spheres. *Dryden.*
MELO-DIOUSLY, *adv.* [from *melodious*.] Musically; harmo-
niously.
MELO-DIOUSNESS, *n. f.* [from *melodious*.] Harmoniousness;
musicalness.
MELODY, *n. f.* [from *μελωδία*.] Musick; harmony of sound.
The prophet David having singular knowledge not in poe-
try alone but in musick also, judged them both to be things
most necessary for the house of God, left behind him for that
purpose a number of divinely indited poems, and was farther
the author of adding unto poetry melody in publick prayer,
melody both vocal and instrumental, for the raising up of
mens hearts, and the sweetening of their affections towards
God. *Hooker, b. v.*
Singing and making melody in your hearts to the Lord. *Eph. v. 19.*
Why rather, sleep, liest thou in smoky cribs,
And hudst with buzzing night flies to thy slumber;
Than in the perfume'd chambers of the great, *Shakespeare.*
And lull'd with sounds of sweetest melody.
Lend me your songs, ye nightingales: Oh pour
The mazy-running soul of melody
Into my varied verse. *Thomson's Spring, l. 570.*
MELOS, *n. f.* [from *melos*, *Fr.* *melos*, Latin.]
1. A plant.
The flower of the melon consists of one leaf, which is of
the expanded bell shape, cut into several segments, and ex-
actly like those of the cucumber: some of these flowers are
barren, not adhering to the embryo; others are fruitful, grow-
ing upon the embryo, which is afterwards changed into a
fruit, for the most part of an oval shape, smooth or wrinkled,
and divided into three seminal apartments, which seem to be
cut into two parts, and contain many oblong seeds. *Miller.*
2. The fruit.
We remember the fish which we did eat in Egypt freely;
the cucumbers and the melons. *Num. xi. 5.*
MELON-THISTLE, *n. f.* [from *melocottus*, Latin.]
The whole plant of the melon-thistle hath a singular ap-
pearance, is very succulent, and hath many angles, which are
beset with sharp thorns. *Miller.*
TO MELT, *v. a.* [from *melto*, Saxon.]
1. To dissolve; to make liquid; commonly by heat.
How they would melt me out of my fat drop by drop, and
liquor fishermen's boots with me! *Shakespeare.*
When the melting fire burneth, the fire causeth the waters
to boil. *Isa. lxiv. 2.*
This price, which is given above the value of the silver in
our coin, is given only to preserve our coin from being melt-
ed down. *Locke.*
Will a goldsmith give one ounce and a quarter of coined
silver for one ounce of bullion, when, by putting it into his
melting pot, he can make it bullion? *Locke.*
The rock's high summit in the temple's shade,
Nor heat could melt, nor beating storm invade. *Pope.*
If your butter when melted tastes of brags, it is your mas-
ter's fault, who will not allow you a silver saucepan. *Swift.*
2. To dissolve; to break in pieces.
To take in pieces this frame of nature, and melt it down
into its first principles; and then to observe how the divine
wisdom wrought all these things into that beautiful compo-
sition; is a kind of joy, which pierceth the mind. *Burnet.*
3. To soften to love or tenderness.
The mighty master smil'd to see
That love was in the next degree:
'Twas but a kindred sound to move,
For pity melts the mind to love. *Dryden. Alexander's Feast.*
Alas! thy story melts away my soul. *Addison's Cato.*
4. To waste away.
Thou would'st have plung'd thyself
In general riot, melted down thy youth
In different beds of lust. *Shakespeare. Timon of Athens.*
TO MELT, *v. n.*
1. To become liquid; to dissolve; to be made fluid.
Let them melt away as waters which run continually. *Psalm.*
The rose is fragrant, but it fades in time;
The violet sweet, but quickly past the prime;
While lilies hang their heads and soon decay,
And whiter snow in minutes melts away. *Dryden.*
2. To be softened to pity, or any gentle passion; to grow ten-
der, mild, or gentle.
I melt, and am not
Of stronger earth than others. *Shakespeare's Coriolanus.*
Dighton and Forrest;
Albeit, they were flesh villains, bloody dogs,
Melting with tenderness and mild compassion,
Wept like two children in their death's sad story. *Shakespeare.*
This said; the mov'd affluents melt in tears. *Dryden.*
Melting